AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 23, wherein said ferrule is formed cylindrical, a plurality of fiber holes are formed and a pitch between adjoining fiber holes is set to less than 250 μm.

3. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 23, wherein a plurality of optical fibers are inserted in said at least one fiber hole.

4. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 2, wherein a plurality of optical fibers are inserted in said plurality of fiber holes.

5. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 23, wherein a jacket made of a metal or a non-ferrous metal is provided outside said ferrule.

6. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 2, wherein a jacket made of a metal or a non-ferrous metal is provided outside said ferrule.

7. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 3, wherein a jacket made of a metal or a non-ferrous metal is provided outside said ferrule.

8. (Previously Presented)The optical coupling module according to claim 5, wherein said ferrule is formed by insert molding of a synthetic resin and is provided inside said jacket.

9. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 6, wherein said ferrule is formed by insert molding of a synthetic resin and is provided inside said jacket.

10. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 7, wherein said ferrule is formed by insert molding of a synthetic resin and is provided inside said jacket.

11. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 5, wherein said ferrule and said jacket have rotation preventing means formed thereon.

12. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 6, wherein said ferrule and said jacket have rotation preventing means formed thereon.

13. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 7, wherein said ferrule and said jacket have rotation preventing means formed thereon.

14. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 23, wherein an end face of said ferrule is polished obliquely with respect to an optical axis of said optical fiber.

15. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 2, wherein an end face of said ferrule is polished obliquely with respect to an optical axis of said optical fiber.

16. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 3, wherein an end face of said ferrule is polished obliquely with respect to an optical axis of said optical fiber.

17. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 6, wherein an end face of said ferrule is polished obliquely with respect to an optical axis of said optical fiber.

18. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 5, wherein said ferrule is provided with a disengagement stopper having at least one portion so formed as to have an outside diameter greater than an inside diameter of said jacket.

19. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 23, wherein said ferrule has a step portion formed thereon.

20. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 2, wherein said ferrule has a step portion formed thereon, said step portion being parallel to a layout direction of said optical fibers.

21. (Previously Presented) The optical coupling module according to claim 6, wherein said ferrule has a step portion formed thereon, said step portion being parallel to a layout direction of said optical fibers.

22. (Previously Presented) The coupling module according to claim 23, wherein said ferrule is formed into a quadratic prism.

23. (Currently Amended) An optical coupling module comprising:

at least one first optical fiber for receiving or outputting light, said optical fiber having ~~one~~ a first end with a first end face;

a plurality of second optical fibers for transmitting light to or receiving the light from said first optical fiber, said second optical fibers each having a second end with a second end face facing the first end face;

an optical element inserted between the first end face and the second end faces and adapted to transmit ~~light to or receive~~ the light ~~from the one end of said optical fiber~~ between the first end face and the second end faces; ~~and~~

a first ferrule made of a synthetic resin, for supporting the ~~one~~ first end of said first optical fiber, said first ferrule including a first body with ~~two~~ a first front end ~~faces~~ face and a first rear end face, and at least one first through hole formed in the first body, the first through hole extending between the ~~two~~ first front and rear end faces and having a first ~~end~~ front portion into which the ~~one~~ first end of said first optical fiber is received, and a ~~second end~~ first rear portion being larger than the first ~~end~~ front portion; and

a second ferrule made of a synthetic resin, for supporting each of the second ends of said second optical fibers, said second ferrule including a second body with a second front end face and a second rear end face, and a plurality of second through holes formed in the second body, each of the second through holes extending between the second front and rear end faces and having a second front portion into which the second end of a corresponding one of said second optical fibers is received, and a second rear portion being larger than the second front portion,

wherein said second through holes open in the second front end face at locations such that said second through holes are separated at respective distances from an optical axis of said first optical fiber, the distances being set depending on function of said optical element.

24. (Currently Amended) The module according to claim 23, wherein said resin is one selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic epoxy resin, thermosetting polyphenylene sulfide, and engineering plastics having a low mold shrinkage of ~~0.1%~~ 1.0% or less obtained by allowing the former resins to contain at least 60% by weight of silica or metal oxide.

25. (Previously Presented) The module according to claim 24, wherein said resin is transparent or semitransparent.

26. (New) The module of claim 24, wherein the module part of an optical coupler.

27. (New) The module of claim 24, wherein the module is part of an optical divider.

28. (New) The module of claim 24, wherein the module is part of an optical isolator.

29. (New) The module of claim 24, wherein the module is part of an optical circulator.

30. (New) The module of claim 24, wherein the module is part of an optical multiplexor.

31. (New) The module of claim 24, wherein the module is part of an optical demultiplexor.